

their academic dedication and success. Especially in light of the great budgetary challenges faced by the State of California and the City of Oakland, these students have proven themselves to be bright, capable and resourceful.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every student for earning this distinction. Thank you for understanding and promoting the importance of staying in school. By continuing to be the best students possible and by making the most of your education, you will enjoy a full range of opportunities to achieve your personal goals, as well as give back to your communities.

Your accomplishments represent the strength of your initiative and a commitment to excellence. The skills and discipline you have developed will be of great use as you continue to follow your dreams toward success. I am so very proud of you for taking personal pride in your studies. Oakland's future leaders are certainly present at this celebration of academic achievement, and I welcome your many civic contributions in the years to come.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I again salute you for your exemplary academic performance. I am confident that you will continue this fine record of scholarship, service and success. Keep up the good work, and I wish you the very best in all of your future endeavors.

INTRODUCING THE EVERY CHILD DESERVES A FAMILY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will give thousands of children in our foster care system a chance at having the one thing many of them say is all they have ever truly wanted—a family. There are approximately 500,000 children in our foster care system right now. Over 125,000 of those are waiting to be adopted, but there are just not enough qualified adoptive and foster parents. That leads to nearly 25,000 youth “aging out” of care each year with no permanent family. These young people are more likely than nearly any other group to become homeless or incarcerated, or to suffer with mental illness or substance abuse.

There is an acute shortage of adoptive and foster parents. Yet, despite this fact and the documented terrible consequences of long stays in the child welfare system, some states have enacted discriminatory bans prohibiting children from being placed with qualified parents due solely to the parent's marital status or sexual orientation. A number of additional states are actively considering similar discriminatory restrictions. Most recently, Arizona enacted a law to restrict the ability of unmarried and gay and lesbian individuals from adopting. Only six states affirmatively allow gay and lesbian couples to adopt jointly.

This is unfair to good people who want to open their homes to youth, unimaginable for kids who just want a family to love them, and unsafe for children for whom we in this body are responsible. If states will not do the right thing, the Federal government should.

Congress invests over \$7 billion in the child welfare system each year. We should not ac-

cept policies that use Federal funds to enact discriminatory barriers to adoption and close the door to thousands of potential homes. Studies suggest that upwards of 2 million gay and lesbian individuals are interested in adopting or fostering a child. There are already approximately 1 million lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) parents raising about 2 million children in the U.S. Leading child welfare, public health, medical and legal organizations agree that opening up the homes of all qualified prospective parents can help support the unique needs of foster youth. Groups including the Child Welfare League of America, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Psychological Association, and the American Bar Association, all support the ability of qualified unmarried and LGBT couples to foster and adopt. More than 30 years of research indicates optimal development for children is based on the stable attachments to committed and nurturing parents, not on the marital status, sexual orientation or gender identity of the parents. This research consistently demonstrates that children raised by same-sex parents exhibit the same level of emotional, cognitive, social and sexual development outcomes as children raised by straight parents.

When considering a potential placement for a child, the only criteria should be what is in the child's best interest and whether the prospective parent can provide a safe and nurturing home. Bigotry should play no part in this decision. That is why I am introducing the “Every Child Deserves a Family Act.” This legislation would simply prohibit any entity that receives Federal child welfare funds from denying or delaying adoption or foster care placements based solely on the prospective parent's marital status or sexual orientation. States and child welfare agencies that fail to end discriminatory practices would face financial penalties. This is the same approach that has put an end to race discrimination in adoption and foster care placements.

Children in our foster care system are some of our most precious—and vulnerable—youth. They depend on us to do all we can to find them supportive and loving families, and it is our obligation to act in their best interests when doing so. To fail in our task of opening every possible door to stable, permanent and loving homes is a grave disservice to these children and to our country. We cannot allow divisive politics and the culture war to further harm these children by shrinking the number of prospective adoptive and foster parents. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in saying yes to children and no to bigotry by co-sponsoring the “Every Child Deserves a Family Act.”

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DAVID BRODER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the life of David Broder, who was a great servant and patriot to this country.

Mr. Broder was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois in 1929. He received his bachelor's de-

gree in liberal arts and soon began writing for two prominent newspapers, The Chicago Maroon and the Hyde Park Herald. By 1960, he was writing for the New York Times covering the presidential race between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. He soon took a job writing for the Washington Post, where he remained for more than 40 years.

Throughout his career, Mr. Broder achieved many milestones and was recognized for his superb skills in the art of journalism. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for his political commentary and was the recipient of the 4th Estate Award from the National Press Club in 1988. He was honored by Washingtonian Magazine as one of the best 50 journalists in both 2005 and 2009. Mr. Broder boasted the most appearances for a journalist on Meet the Press with over 400 since 1963.

Though David, unfortunately, left us one month ago, he will always remain in our memories because of his work and service covering the issues that matter most to this country.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the life of David Broder and his devotion to uncovering the truth. David was truly a remarkable individual and a phenomenal asset to all of us here in Washington and around the world.

HONORING SGT. JOHN STONE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, we go to baseball games to relax, root for our heroes on the field, and enjoy the company of other fans. But on April 14, 2010, for John Stone it was a day to be a hero in the stands at Yankee Stadium when he saw a woman choking on a piece of food.

Mr. Stone, a staff sergeant and medic in the Connecticut National Guard who served in Iraq, was enjoying the game in his Don Mattingly jersey when he saw a crowd of people around a woman 15 rows away who was choking. It was Toby Weiss who came to root for the Yankees but was now choking on a piece of food.

Seeing the crowd, Sgt. Stone assumed all was well, but then he realized no one was able to help the terrified woman who was already turning blue. He ran to her and performed the Heimlich maneuver and jarred loose the food.

Mrs. Weiss, the wife of Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, was checked out at the aid station at the stadium and was well enough to return to the game and to thank Sgt. Stone.

Rabbi Weiss said other people rushed to help his wife but they weren't able to help. “Suddenly,” he said, “this kind of Elijah figure appeared from nowhere. He knew exactly what to do.” Mrs. Weiss also insisted Sgt. Stone was heaven-sent. “God sent me an angel,” she said, noting that her unassuming hero blushed over the praise.

Following the scare, fans applauded, hugged and high-fived Sgt. Stone on his way back up to his seat. Stone, who lives in Montville, Connecticut, was at the Stadium with his brother Jamie, an Army infantry soldier on leave from duty in Afghanistan.